

WORDS OF THE WISE.

BY THE REV. RALPH ERSKINE, 1724.

Mercy and truth are met together ; Righteousness and peace have kissed each.
Psalm lxxxv. 10.

What is your duty, believer, who not only hear but know this joyful sound ? Your duty is, not only to rejoice in this matchless harmonious conjunction of divine attributes in Christ, but to exemplify the same by a harmonious conjunction of grace and holy virtues in you. Let mercy and truth, met together as divine attributes in Christ, be exemplified by mercy and truth meeting together as divine virtues in you. Let righteousness and peace, kissing each other in him, be exemplified by righteousness and peace kissing each other in you. Let the meeting of mercy and truth engage you to be merciful and true ; "Merciful, because your heavenly Father is merciful ;" and true, because "He desires truth in the inward parts." Let the embraces of righteousness and peace, engage you to be righteous and peaceable ; that is, to be students of purity and peace : For the wisdom that is from above, is first pure, then peaceable, James, iii. 17. It is declared in the verse following our text, that it is the design of these perfections of God looking down harmoniously from heaven, to make suitable graces spring up from the earth : Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. When the Sun of righteousness, in whom all the excellencies of God do shine, looks down, then, as the natural sun, shedding its influences, makes fruit to spring up from the earth, so the Sun of righteousness, looking down, and shedding abroad his influences, makes truth, and all the rest of the fruits of the Spirit, to spring out of the earth, out of the heart, the soil where they are sown in regeneration. O does mercy look down from heaven to you, in friendship with truth ? Shall not this mercy make you merciful to the bodies and souls of others, by doing them all the temporal and spiritual good that you can ? And shall God manifest his truth, in conjunction with mercy, towards you ; and will you not be a friend to truth, even to all the precious truths of the gospel ?

O believer ! study you, through grace, to get a match made up betwixt mercy and truth, righteousness and peace in you, seeing there can be no merciful peace to the prejudice of righteous truth. And study to get all these attributes of God exemplified in your heart and life, and the seal and impress thereof upon your souls, you, being united to Christ, in whom all these excellencies of God do meet together with harmonious embracements ? Out of Christ's fulness do you receive, and grace for grace ? As the child receives members from the father, and the paper, letter for letter from the press, so, beholding his glory, be you changed into the same image, by receiving mercy for mercy, truth for truth, righteousness for righteousness, and peace for peace. Out of his fulness do you receive grace for grace, holiness for holiness ; and a holy virtue suitable to every holy perfection that is in him : And all those harmoniously meeting together, and kissing each other in you. Let no heavenly grace, or holy duty,